

TL4T

Newsletter

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BrainyBox & Fakebook

Previously covered in a TL4T is **ClassTools** (www.classtools.com). ClassTools is a free service for teacher to use to create free educational games, quizzes, & activities. The templates created using ClassTools can be shared through email or embedded into a classroom blog or website. They provide 27 easy to use templates to use with students. The **QR Game Generator Template** (www.classtools.net/QR) has also been previously featured in our QR Code article. Here are two more tools to check out –

BrainyBox = A new (beta) tool offered from ClassTools. It is a more advanced version of **Cube Creator** (bit.ly/UzJRge) & easier to use than **Museum Box** (museumbox.e2bn.org). Students add content to each side of the cube (text, video, images, links). A great way for students to

collect artifacts over a topic, creating different scenes for a story, detailing events over a historical figure. The ideas are endless.

Fakebook = Creating a fake Facebook profile for a character in a book or of a famous person in history would be a creative & fun way to get students interested in writing. Students can add & upload images, write wall posts, create "likes", comments & conversations on fake posts, & even create a friends list. Students can create walls for a historical figure, literacy characters, but you can also think outside the box, & have the students create walls for elements off the Periodic Table, animals, or mathematical properties. See a **Fakebook Gallery** (bit.ly/Vbghk3) of completed walls for inspiration.

Other templates you might be interested in –

- o **Tools** – Arcade Game Generator, Twister (create a fake Twitter feed), Harvard Citation Generator, Keyword Checker, Plagiarizr, Animated Book, learning diagrams & templates, & much more.

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**A+
Click**



www.aplusclic.com

Practice makes perfect! The website helps students become problem solvers. No fees, no ads, no registration, no calculators & no frustration.

A+ Click features a collection of illustrated challenging math problems for students in grades one through twelve. The website has a graduated set of over 2250 problems, starting from the very simple to the extremely difficult. The website also includes hundreds of practical problems, brainteasers, & short math situations **SMS** (bit.ly/YJDsBD).

The problems include a short description & an illustration to help problem solvers visualize the model. The problems can be solved within one minute and without using a calculator. The tests adapt to student ability. To progress to a higher level, you must correctly answer five consecutive questions. The tests concentrate on understanding, spatial reasoning, & problem solving rather than math rules & theorems.

3rd Graders Win International Video Contest!

Teacher Guest Post by
Emily Lindgren, 3rd Grade

In December of 2012 students at Plattsmouth Elementary School created an educational video & submitted it into the Mountains of Creativity Video Contest. Next Vista, an organization out of California that provides free educational resources for teachers, put on the contest through their website nextvista.org. The contest was offered worldwide & had entries from various states & even other countries.

The third graders had 90 seconds to teach a concept of their choice. After deciding to teach cause & effect, students worked on editing the script, practicing their lines, filming the video, & adding sound effects.

Next Vista (www.nextvista.org) is a wonderful resource for teachers. There is a plethora of educational videos put together by teachers & students to explain content. Simply type in your topic in the search & preview the videos, searching for one that will explain your topic the best!

I strongly encourage you to use Next Vista in your classroom & to consider participating in one of their video contests. Students learn to plan, work together, express themselves, & how to complete a project from start to finish. Next Vista next contest is called Creative Flight & the deadline is Friday, April 19th. Good luck!



To view the students' video, please go to www.nextvista.org/cause-and-effect.

Apps

pixntell, MyScript
Calculator, Storyrobe



Elementary pixntell

Allow students to add a voice to their pictures & create a video they can share. Have students share stories with old photos, create a time capsule or timeline, explain a math problem, make an animal report, & more.



Middle School MyScript Calculator

A calculator that allows students to write the equation on the screen & then the calculator function takes over & solves the equation for the student. The app picks up what numbers are being written very easily. Reviews say that it is the best calculator app available for iPods & iPads.



High School Storyrobe

An inventive app for creating self-expression with digital media that is important to you. Add photos & narration, email your story, easily import story to iPhoto or YouTube, & allows for threaded stories. Add to existing stories from other users to create longer stories of travel & events.

neok12

www.neok12.com

A great collection of educational videos, lessons, quizzes, games, & puzzles. There are topics over,

- Science
 - Physical Science
 - Life Science
 - Human Body
 - Earth & Space
- Geography
- Social Studies
- History
- Math
- English

Each topic is then further divided into subtopics.

The Pictures School Presentation tool is a mashup of Flickr & Wikipedia. Students can create presentations by adding images from Flickr & text from Wikipedia.

The video playlists are teacher created complete with notes & lessons for the students.

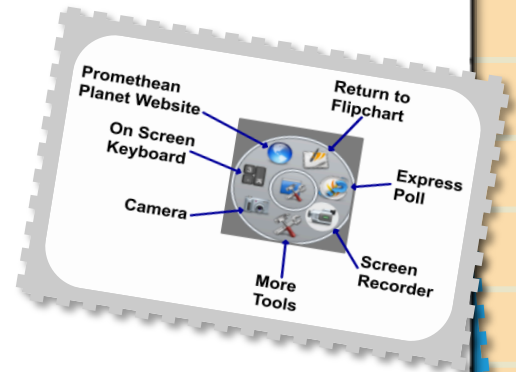


ActivInspire: Desktop Tools & Organizing Resources

Desktop Tools — Use these tools on your desktop. ActivInspire will minimize & the icon will appear. The icon expands to reveal the desktop tools below.

Organizing Resources — You can organize your images, backgrounds, & flipchart pages in both **My Resources & Shared Resources**.

1. Select a resource menu & a folder.
2. A Pop-up menu will appear. Click it.
3. Then select your option,
 - a. Export to Resource Pack...
 - b. Rename Folder
 - c. Delete Folder
 - d. Create New Folder
4. When adding material to your new folder, just be sure to select it & then click & drag your material to the folder. A green "+" will appear, meaning that your material is being added to this location.



Digital Vaults

www.digitalvaults.org

The highly recommended Digital Vaults from the National Archives Experience, is for all ages but would work best for the middle school & high school classes. Choose one of 1,200 hand-selected images from the National Archives & see the web of related historical images related to it (some a tangential, but fascinating). This is a very robust site, offering a plethora of ways to save selected images to your own 'collection', link to outside sites on subjects featured in each image, 'backtrack' your searches or create a 'pathway' as you explore to challenge others to see the connections between images. The ability to zoom in to high-resolution images of presidential memos, illustrated family records, vintage Wanted posters, Civil War photographs & more, is wonderful. Students can create posters overlaying images or even self-captioned movies!



TenMarks

Teacher Guest Post by Brianna Clark, 3rd Grade

TenMarks (www.tenmarks.com) is a wonderful website that provides a teacher with the opportunity to give his or her students more math practice on various topics. It is a free website that allows you to set up a class, assign them the math concepts that you are working on, & get feedback on how they perform. Each student is given a login name & password. The student is then able to login & use TenMarks at school or at home. After every week the teacher is sent a progress report about how the class does as whole. The teacher is also able to see how each individual student is doing. The site even lets the teacher know the amount of time that each student is on task. In third grade we use TenMarks throughout the year & love the practice it gives our students!



ALL Learners: Storia & Stewie the Duck

Early Childhood Learners: Scholastic Storia

This **iPad App** is from Scholastic has just recently advertised their new e-book app, Storia. Parents or teachers download the app to their device, then can shop for children's e-books on the scholastic website. The e-books range in price from .99 to 6 or 7 dollars. However, when you first sign up & log into the app, scholastic will give you 5 free e-books to start (you can't choose them, but they are pretty good books- some fiction, some non-fiction).



SPED Learners: Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim

This **iPad/iPod App** is a guide to children between ages 2-6 about how to be safe near water. Stewie wants to swim with the big ducks, but his sisters help him learn about water safety rules. Features include – memory game, song, read-to-me, read myself, auto play, & tips for parents.